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C. Amendment to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining a statistical classifier for classifying a microorganisms of unknown species within a the same genus into known species within a the same genus, comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each of a plurality of different species of microorganisms within the same genus whose species is known;
 - (b) locating a plurality of discriminatory subregions in the magnetic resonance spectra obtained; and
 - (c) cross-validating the spectra by selecting a first portion of the spectra from each species, developing linear discriminant analysis classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species, and validating the remainder of the spectra from each species using the classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species to obtain optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients and classifier spectra for each of the known species of microorganisms, which coefficients and classifier spectra can be used to determine the species of microorganisms whose species are unknown from other species within the same genus.

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2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating step (c) a plurality of times, each time selecting as the first portion of the spectra a different portion of the spectra from the species, to obtain a different set of optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients for the species, and obtaining a weighted average of the linear discriminant analysis coefficients to obtain final classifier spectra.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of cross-validating the spectra comprises cross validating the spectra by randomly selecting about half of the spectra.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repeating step (c) a plurality of times comprises repeating step (c) about 1000 times.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of obtaining a plurality of classifier spectra independently, and aggregating the results of the independent classifiers to obtain a consensus diagnosis.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microorganisms include bacteria.
7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus casseliflavus* and *Enterococcus gallinarum*.

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9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Streptococcus, pneumoniae, Streptococcus pyogories*, and *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

10. – 14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each different species is at least 10.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each different species is at least 30.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microorganisms include cultured bacterial infections.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microorganisms include specimens from a mammal containing bacterial infections.

19. (currently amended) A method for determining the species of a microorganism of unknown species from other species of microorganisms within a the same genus, comprising:

obtaining magnetic resonance spectra of the microorganism of an unknown species within a genus, and comparing the spectra obtained with a species classifier, said classifier having been obtained by

(a) obtaining a plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each of a plurality of different species of microorganisms within the same

genus whose species is known;

- (b) locating a plurality of discriminatory subregions in the magnetic resonance spectra obtained; and
- (c) cross-validating the spectra by selecting a first portion of the spectra from each species, developing linear discriminant analysis classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species, and validating the remainder of the spectra from each species using the classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species to obtain optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients and classifier spectra for each of the known species of microorganisms; and selecting, as the species of the unknown species of microorganism, the microorganism whose spectra has the closest match to the spectra of the unknown microorganism species.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the steps of obtaining the classifier further comprises the step of repeating step (c) a plurality of times, each time selecting as the first portion of the spectra a different portion of the spectra from the species, to obtain a different set of optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients for the species, and obtaining a weighted average of the linear discriminant analysis coefficients to obtain final classifier spectra.

21. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of cross-validating the spectra comprises cross validating the spectra by randomly selecting about half of the spectra.

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22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of repeating step (c) a plurality of times comprises repeating step (c) about 1000 times.

23. (original) The method of claim 19, further including the steps of obtaining a plurality of classifier spectra independently, and aggregating the results of the independent classifiers to obtain a consensus diagnosis.

24. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the microorganisms include bacteria.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

26. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus casseliflavus* and *Enterococcus gallinarum*.

27. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pyogories* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

28– 33. (canceled)

34. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each different species is at least 30.

35. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the microorganisms include cultured bacterial infections.

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36. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the microorganisms include specimens from a mammal containing bacterial infections.

37. (currently amended) A statistical classifier for classifying microorganisms of unknown species within ~~a~~ the same genus into known species within ~~a~~ the same genus, comprising:

- (a) a spectrometer for obtaining a plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each of a plurality of different species of microorganisms within the same genus whose species is known;
- (b) a locator for locating a plurality of discriminatory subregions in the magnetic resonance spectra obtained; and
- (c) a cross-validator for cross-validating the spectra by selecting a first portion of the spectra from each species, developing linear discriminant analysis classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species, and validating the remainder of the spectra from each species using the classifiers from the first portion of the spectra from each species to obtain optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients and classifier spectra for each of the known species of microorganisms, which coefficients and classifier spectra can be used to determine the species of microorganisms whose species are unknown from other species within the same genus.

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38. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the cross-validator repeats step (c) a plurality of times, each time selecting as the first portion of the spectra a different portion of the spectra from the species, to obtain a different set of optimized linear discriminant analysis coefficients for the species, and obtaining a weighted average of the linear discriminant analysis coefficients to obtain final classifier spectra.
39. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the cross-validator cross validates the spectra by randomly selecting about half of the spectra.
40. (original) The classifier of claim 38, wherein the classifier repeats step (c) about 1000 times.
41. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the classifier obtains a plurality of classifier spectra independently, and aggregates the results of the independent classifiers to obtain a consensus diagnosis.
42. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the microorganisms includes bacteria.
43. (original) The classifier of claim 42, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
44. (original) The classifier of claim 42, wherein the bacteria includes the species of *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus casseliflavus* and *Enterococcus gallinarum*.
45. (original) The classifier of claim 42, wherein the bacteria includes the species of

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Streptococcus pneumoniae, Streptococcus pyogeries and Streptococcus agalachae.

46. – 50. (canceled)

51. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each different species is at least 10.

52. (original) The classifier of claim 37, wherein the plurality of magnetic resonance spectra of each different species is at least 30.

53. (original) The classifier of claim 1, wherein the microorganisms include cultured bacterial infections.

54. (original) The classifier of claim 1, wherein the microorganisms include specimens from a mammal containing bacterial infections.